The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An electro-optical device capable of effecting an alteration in an optical output in response to an electrical signal selected from modulating its amplitude, modulating its phase and switching it, comprising a body of electro-optically active material, waveguides for passing light through the body, and electrodes for applying an electric field with a frequency in the microwave region to the body, the body of electro-optically active material ~~transverse geometry of the device~~ having in succession an upstream zone, a middle zone, and a downstream zone being such as to maintain adequate phase velocity matching between optical and microwave frequencies, the device having a discontinuity within the downstream zone such that the direction of the electro-optic effect is reversed for a portion of the length of the device, ~~adjacent its downstream end.~~

2. (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the electro-optic material is uniform apart from a single discontinuity at which its crystal domain structure is inverted.

3. (original) A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the electro-optic material is uniform apart from a single such discontinuity at which its poling is inverted.

4. (withdrawn) A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the electro-optic material is entirely uniform and the discontinuity is imposed solely by a discontinuity in the design of the electrodes.

5. (original) A device as claimed claim 1 in which the electro-optically active material is selected from the group consisting of x-cut and z-cut lithium niobate, semiconductors, poled polymers and poled glass.

6. (original) A device as claimed claim 2 in which the electro-optically active material is selected from the group consisting of x-cut and z-cut lithium niobate, semiconductors, poled polymers and poled glass.

7. (original) A device as claimed claim 3 in which the electro-optically active material is selected from the group consisting of x-cut and z-cut lithium niobate, semiconductors, poled polymers and poled glass.

8. (original) A device in accordance with claim 1, being a modulator.

9. (original) A device in accordance with claim 1, being an optical switch.